

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LAGOS 03698 020008Z
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-07
TRSE-00 /080 W
-----020013Z 020208 /22

O P 012330Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 262
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON NIACT IMMEDIATE
AVEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY 8417
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY
AMCONSUL CAPETOWN PRIORITY
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 3698

LONDON FOR SCHAUFLE

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS:PFOR, CG, AO, NI
SUBJECT: GARBA'S MISSION TO ZAIRE AND ANGOLA

REF: LAGOS 3639

1. SUMMARY: GARBA REPORTS HE WAS "VERY FIRM" IN THREE HOUR
DISCUSSION WITH NETO AND BROUGHT HIM IN DIRECTION OF PEACEFUL
SETTLEMENT, BUT NETO "CAN DO NOTHING" UNTIL POLITBURO
MEETS IN TWO OR THREE DAYS. GARBA SAYS HE IS "CAUTIOUSLY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LAGOS 03698 020008Z

OPTIMISTIC" AND IS PREPARED TO FLY BACK FROM NEW DELHI AT ANY
TIME TO CONTINUE NEGOTIATIONS, END SUMMARY

2. AT 8:50 P.M. APRIL 1 EXTAFF COMMISSIONER GARBA CALLED CHARGE
IN RESPONSE TO NOTE CHARGE HAD LEFT AT GARBA'S RESIDENCE EARLIER
IN EVENING. GARBA SAID HIS TRIP HAD BEEN REASONABLY SUCCESSFUL.
HE TALKED WITH MOBUTU THREE TIMES AND HAD AN EXTENDED THREE

HOUR DISCUSSION WITH NETO. GARBA SAID HE HAD BEEN "VERY FIRM" WITH NETO AND MEMBERS OF HIS POLITBURO; HE HAD MADE CLEAR THAT FMG IS COMMITTED TO THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF ZAIRE AND WANTS TO SEE THE SHABA PROBLEM RESOLVED PEACEFULLY. NETO HAD ORIGINALLY BEEN INTRANSIGENT, TALKING OF THE PROBLEMS HE HAD HAD WITH ZAIRE, BUT AS THE DISCUSSION WENT ON GARBA BROUGHT NETO AROUND TO ACCEPT THAT THERE MIGHT BE A BASIS FOR PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF THE DIFFERENCES AND TO SAY HE WOULD BE WILLING TO TRY TO WORK SOMETHING OUT. NETO SAID, HOWEVER, THERE WAS NOTHING HE COULD DO UNTIL THE POLITBURO MEETS IN TWO OR THREE DAYS (FROM MARCH 31) AND DEBATES THE MATTER. NETO CLAIMED HIS HANDS WERE TIED AND HE COULD DO NOTHING WITHOUT POLITBURO CONCURRENCE.

3. CHARGE ASKED IF GARBA HAD DISCUSSED ANGOLAN SUPPORT FOR KATANGESE GENDARMES AND THE NEED FOR CLOSURE OF THE ANGOLA/SHABA BORDER. GARBA SAID THEY HAD DISCUSSED ABSOLUTELY EVERY ASPECT OF THE SITUATION. HE SAID NETO HAD AT FIRST DENIED SUPPORTING THE KATANGESE BUT WHEN PRESSED HAD FINALLY ADMITTED THAT THEY WERE "UNDER HIS TUTELAGE".

4. GARBA SAID HE HAD EMPHASIZED TO NETO THE US WILLINGNESS TO NEGOTIATE WITH HIM WITHOUT CONDITIONS; NETO WAS VERY PLEASED AT THAT, BUT HE WOULD STILL HAVE TO CONSULT THE POLITBURO. GARBA CONCLUDED NETO IS "TIED DOWN BY THE POLITBURO" AND CITED AS ONE EVIDENCE OF THIS THE FACT THAT AFTER HIS ARRIVAL IN LUANDA HE AND NETO HAD HAD TO WAIT FOR TWENTY MINUTES UNTIL A COUPLE OF ABSENT POLITBURO MEMBERS ARRIVED; THEN THEY COULD START THEIR TALKS.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LAGOS 03698 020008Z

5. CHARGE ASKED IF GARBA HAD SEEN CASTRO, BUT HE LATTER HAD LEFT LUANDA SHORTLY BEFORE GARBA'S ARRIVAL. GARBA SAID HE WOULD HAVE BEEN INTERESTED TO TALK WITH CASTRO ABOUT THE SHABA PROBLEM AND HAD THOUGHT THAT ON HIS RETURN TO LAGOS HE MIGHT GET IN TOUCH WITH THE CUBAN AMBASSADOR HERE. HE CONCLUDED, HOWEVER, THAT THE CUBANS "ARE NOT A FACTOR" AT THIS STAGE AND HE DID NOT PURSUE IT. CHARGE RAISED THE POSSIBILITY THAT DESTABILIZATION OF MOBUTU MIGHT LEAD TO EXTENSION OF SOVIET INFLUENCE INTO ZAIRE AND CLEAR ACROSS AFRICA. GARBA SAID HE AGREED AND WAS WORRIED ABOUT SUCH A POSSIBILITY BUT HE THOUGHT IT WAS NOT IMMINENT; IT MIGHT COME LATER, HOWEVER.

6. CHARGE ASKED IF THERE WERE SOMETHING OAU FOR HAVING DONE NOTHING IN THIS, HE THOUGHT IN FACT MOBUTU DID NOT WANT TO TAKE THE PROBLEM TO THE OAU. GARBA SAW NO ROLE FOR THE UN AT PRESENT EITHER; HE THOUGHT IT BEST TO LEAVE THE MATTER TO ZAIRE, ANGOLA AND NIGERIA FOR THE TIME BEING.

7. IN CONCLUSION, GARBA SAID THAT ALTHOUGH HIS CONVERSATION WITH NETO HAD BEEN INCONCLUSIVE AND NOTHING ESSENTIALLY HAD HAPPENDED, HE WAS "CAUTIOUSLY OPTIMISTIE". GARBA IS LEAVING APRIL 2 BUT HE SAID HEAD OF STATE OBASANJO IS FULLY IN THE PICTURE AND IF AND WHEN HE GIVES THE WORD GARBA IS PREPARED IMMEDIATELY TO RETURN FROM THE NON-ALIGNED CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING IN NEW DELHI TO CONTINUE THE NEGOTIATIONS.
CROSBY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, INVASIONS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 01-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977LAGOS03698
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770113-0865
Format: TEL
From: LAGOS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770499/aaaadiaa.tel
Line Count: 124
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c57b07ac-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 LAGOS 3639
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2928657
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GARBA'S MISSION TO ZAIRE AND ANGOLA
TAGS: PFOR, CG, AO, NI, US, (MOBUTU SESE SEKO), (GARBA, JOSEPH N), (NETO, AGOSTINHO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c57b07ac-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009